



**UNAPPROVED MINUTES
OF THE 140TH STATED MEETING OF
COVENANT PRESBYTERY
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

140-1 ORDER OF THE DAY – WORSHIP

Covenant Presbytery met in its 140th Stated Meeting on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at Christ Covenant PCA, Hernando, MS, at 9:30 A.M. The presbytery convened with the service of worship according to the following order:

Prelude
Call to Worship – Psalm 113
Hymn – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Invocation
Confession of Sin
Assurance of Pardon
Confession of Faith – Heidelberg Catechism #1
Prayer
Hymn – How Sweet and Awesome is the Place
Special Music – Here is Love
Sermon – Philippians 1 – “Gospel Glasses” – Rev. Billy Spink
Hymn – Jesus, I Come
Benediction

TE Tim Reed, the Moderator, called Presbytery to order and RE Jim Gibson prayed the constituting prayer.

140-2 ENROLLMENT OF MEMBERS

140-2.1 The Stated Clerk, TE Robert Browning, announced that a quorum was present. The complete enrollment of those who registered is as follows:

TEACHING ELDER

Chris Accardy, Grace PC, Grenada MS
Stephen Atkinson, Covenant PC, Fayetteville, AR
Hunter Bailey, Christ Comm., Fayetteville, AR

Doug Barcroft, Hickory Withe PC, Eads, TN
Bill Bradford, Lawndale PC, Tupelo, MS
Adam Brokaw, Covenant PC, Cleveland, MS

Robert Browning, Christ PC, Olive Branch, MS
Robert Callison, Out of Bounds, Germantown, TN
John Craft, RUF-Rhodes, Memphis, TN
Billy Crain, Christ Comm., Fayetteville, AR
John Crosby, RUM-Memphis, Memphis, TN
Ryan Dean, FPC, Clarksdale, MS
Brad DeVries, Trinity PC, Sherwood, AR
Reed Dunn, Christ the King, Joplin, MO
Ashley Dusenbery, Covenant PC, Cleveland, MS
Don Erwin, Arkansas Hospice, AR
Ed Eubanks, Out of Bounds, Memphis, TN
Mike Ford, RUM-AR, Fayetteville, AR
James Grant, Out of Bounds, Collierville, TN
Kevin Hale, Christ Church, Conway, AR
Andrew Halsey, First PC, Charleston, MS
Bill Heard, Grace PC, Starkville, MS
Still Hill, MTW-Peru
Samuel Husband, IPC, Memphis, TN
Steve Jameson, Sardis/One Door Min, Sardis, MS
Jeremy Jones, IPC, Memphis, TN
Justin Jones, IPC, Memphis, TN
Laurie Jones, Marks PC, Marks, MS
Joshua Keel, Covenant PC, Little Rock, AR
Jeffrey Lancaster, Redeemer, Memphis, TN
Don Locke, Houston PC, Houston MS
Sean Lucas, IPC, Memphis, TN
Mike Malone, IPC, Memphis, TN
Sam McDonald, Trinity PC, Corinth, MS

Chris Miller, Trinity Grace, Rogers, AR
Richard Owens, Westminster, Greenwood, MS
Curt Presley, Christ PC, Oxford, MS
Tim Reed, Covenant PC, Little Rock, AR
Don Riley, DMI, Memphis, TN
Brad Robson, IPC, Memphis, TN
Brent Sadler, Grace PC, Jackson, TN
Paul Sagan, Covenant PC, Fayetteville, AR
John Sartelle, Christ PC, Oakland, TN
Nate Smith, RRPC, Germantown, TN
Brian Sorgenfrei, RUM-MS State, Starkville, MS
Billy Spink, RRPC, Germantown, TN
Harold Sprayberry, First PC, Water Valley, MS
Tim Starnes, Covenant PC, Cleveland, MS
Seth Still, RUM-Delta ST, Cleveland, MS
Chris Taylor, Trinity Grace PC, Rogers, AR
Parker Tenent, IPC, Memphis, TN
Nathan Tircuit, Grace Community, Cordova, TN
Ted Wenger, Redeemer, Siloam Springs, AR
Clint Wilcke, Christ Covenant, Hernando, MS
Ford Williams, Without Call, Memphis, TN
Mike Winebrenner, Christ Fellowship, Horn Lake, MS
Ben Winkler, Redeemer, Memphis TN
Jeff Wreyford, MNA Church Planter, Jonesboro, AR
Steven Wright, Covenant PC, Jackson, TN
Jimmy Young, Out of Bounds, Germantown, TN
Eric Zellner, First PC, Indianola, MS

TEACHING ELDERS who were excused by Presbytery are:

Ed Norton, IPC, Memphis, TN
David Smith, Maple Drive, Pontotoc, MS
Ian Kayser, Westminster, Greenwood, MS
Todd Matocha, Main Street PC, Columbus, MS
Justin McGuire, College Hill PC, Oxford, MS
Scott Davis, Hope PC, Hot Springs, AR
Dan Anderson, MNA Planter, Little Rock, AR
Nicholas Davelaar, Covenant, Russellville, AR

Ken Hargis, Covenant PC, Fayetteville, AR
Kyle Dillon, Out of Bounds, Germantown, TN
Les Newsom, RUM-Area Coordinator
John Clayton, Covenant PC, Fort Smith, AR
Chris Treat, Hope Mission, Bryant, AR
Andy Coburn, Lawndale PC, Tupelo, MS
Doug Nystrom, Covenant PC, Fayetteville, AR

Including teaching elders designated as honorably retired: Marvin Camp, Charles Carroll, Alan Cochet, James Codling, Ray Cross, Tom Elkin, Tim Fortner, David Hamilton, Bill Hogan, Steve Irby, Danton Ketchum, A.B. Kuiper, Werner Mietling, Sam Shepperson, John Wingard

Also including teaching elders serving abroad or out of bounds: Carl Chaplin: MTW, Latvia; Bob Clarke: RBI, Atlanta, GA; Tom Mirabella: MTW, Japan; Jay Outen: MNA Military Chaplain; Jeff Saunders: MTW, Japan

UNEXCUSED TEACHING ELDERS are:

Craig Barnard, Spout Springs PC, Ripley, MS
Dawson Bean, Without Call
Trey Bundrick, Without Call
Wally Bumpas, Out of Bounds
John D'Arezzo, Stated Supply, Clarendon, AR
Jason Driggers, Redeemer, Saltillo, MS
Jason Edwards, Without Call
Delbert Farris, MNA-Chaplain-Civilian
Murray Garrott, Without Call
Bill Gleason, Without Call

Jason Glover, Out of Bounds-Chaplain
Bradford Green, RUF-Hendrix/UCA
David Harrell, Faith PC, Aberdeen, MS
Ted Mattis, Without Call
Billy McGarity, Grace PC, Troy, TN
Bryan Miller, Without Call
Marc Scheibe, Without Call
Raun Swafford, Without Call
Cecil Wells, Without Call

RULING ELDERS

Lee Mattox: Carrollton PC, Carrollton, MS
Ike Sayle: First PC, Charleston, MS
Buck Beckham: Covenant, Cleveland, MS
Ted Leininger: Covenant, Cleveland, MS
Stefan Booy: Christ Church, Conway, AR
Rob Holden: Christ Church, Conway, AR
Steve Phipps: Grace Community, Cordova, TN
Bill Davis: Trinity PC, Corinth, MS
Dow Pursley: Covenant PC, Fayetteville, AR
John Redwine: Covenant PC, Fayetteville, AR
Jim Gibson: RRPC, Germantown, TN
Van Johnson: Covenant PC, Greenville, MS

Brant Godbold: Grace PC, Grenada, MS
Bob Barber: Christ Covenant, Hernando, MS
Chas Emmerson: Christ Covenant, Hernando, MS
Bob Tramel: Covenant PC, Little Rock, AR
Ralph Delbove: IPC, Memphis, TN
Chad Gilliland: Redeemer, Memphis, TN
Darrel Crosswell: Trinity Fellowship, Sherwood, AR
Ron Plate: Trinity Fellowship, Sherwood, AR
Barron Caulfield: First PC, Water Valley, MS
Clyde Herron: First PC, Water Valley, MS
Brian Kyles: Redeemer PC, Siloam Springs, AR
Greg Adams: Redeemer PC, Siloam Springs, AR

RULING ELDER representatives excused by Presbytery are:

Christ the King PC, Joplin, MO
Marks PC, Marks, MS
Trinity Grace PC, Rogers, AR
Maple Drive PC, Pontotoc, MS
College Hill PC, Oxford, MS
Hickory Withe PC, Eads TN

Covenant PC, Russellville, AR
Houston PC, Houston MS
Covenant PC, Jackson, TN
Covenant PC, Fort Smith, AR
Lawndale PC, Tupelo, MS

CHURCHES WITHOUT REPRESENTATION are:

Faith PC: Aberdeen, MS
Old Lebanon: Ackerman, MS
Bassett PC: Bassett, AR
First PC: Clarendon, AR
First PC: Clarksdale, MS
Mainstreet PC: Columbus, MS
First PC: Dyersburg, TN
Westminster PC: Greenwood, MS
Hope PC: Hot Springs, AR

Houlka PC: Houlka, MS
First PC: Indianola, MS
Itta Bena – MC PC: Itta Bena, MS
Grace PC: Jackson, TN
Christ PC: Oakland, TN
Christ PC: Oxford, MS
Spout Springs PC: Ripley, MS
Redeemer PC: Saltillo, MS
Sardis PC: Sardis, MS

Grace PC: Starkville, MS
Grace PC: Troy, TN

Oak Ridge PC: Water Valley, MS

A quorum being present the Moderator proceeded with the business of the docket presented to the presbytery.

140-3 DOCKET

140-3.1 The Stated Clerk presented the proposed docket. The motion was seconded and passed to adopt the docket as follows:

Call to Order (2017 Moderator TE Tim Reed)
Constituting Prayer & Enrollment of Members
Adoption of Docket
Introduction of New Commissioners and Visitors
Welcome from Host
Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: 139th Stated Meeting (available on the Members' Only page of the presbytery website)
Report of Stated Clerk
Treasurer's Report
Appointment of the Resolution and Thanks Standing Committee by the Moderator
Commission Reports –
Permanent Committee Reports
1. Administration
2. MNA
3. RUF
4. Credentials – [Order of the Day]
5. Candidates
6. Church Care
7. MTW
8. Nominations
Standing Committee Report: Resolution and Thanks
Unfinished Business
New Business
Concluding Prayer and Adjournment
Time and Place of Next Meeting: Next Stated Meeting, Tuesday October 3, 2017 at Covenant Church, Little Rock, AR (pending approval).

140-3.2 The motion was seconded and passed to add a five minute order of the day before lunch to hear from Mrs. Susan Tyner who serves as CDM's Women's Ministry Representative for our area. Also a two minute order of the day to hear greetings and a short report from Missionary to Peru, Steve Hill, before lunch: 11:50am and 11:55am respectively.

140-4 INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS AND VISITORS

A number of commissioners in attendance for the first time and other visitors were introduced and welcomed to the meeting of the presbytery. Guests and visitors who registered are as follows:

Steve Phipps
Brian Kyles
Greg Adams

Denver Hale
Jaime Loayza
Michael Williamson

Frank Accardy
Jay Sawrie
Gage Jordan
Sabrina Camfield
Tyler Kenyon
Scott Byrd
Melvin Monickavasagom
Clay Ashford

Heath Warbritton
James Bruce
Aaron Raines
Tyler Burch
Elliott Everitt
Susan Tyner
Ro Taylor
Glenn Van Enk

140-5 WELCOME FROM HOST CHURCH

RE Bob Barber of Christ Covenant PCA, Hernando, MS, welcomed the commissioners and visitors attending the meeting. He informed the presbytery of plans for lunch at local eateries in and around the Hernando area and offered the church facilities for the use of those attending the meeting.

140-6 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

140-6.1 The minutes of the 139th Stated Meeting, February 7, 2017, had been distributed for review prior to this meeting on the “members only” page of the presbytery website.

140-6.2 The motion was seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the 139th Stated Meeting as presented.

140-7 REPORT OF STATED CLERK

140-7.1 TE Robert Browning, Stated Clerk, had distributed copies of his printed report prior to the meeting. An updated version is attached to these minutes. TE Browning gave an overview of correspondence and referrals since the last stated meeting.

140-7.2 The motion was seconded and passed that Presbytery grant requested excused absences from the 140th stated meeting as amended by the addition of other names and permissions to leave early, and as indicated on the roll of commissioners and the attached report of the stated clerk.

Early Departure: TE Hunter Bailey, Doug Barcroft, James Grant, Bill Bradford, Brant Godbold, Don Riley

140-7.3 The motion was seconded and passed that Presbytery admit the following commission reports to the record, noting the actions taken on behalf of presbytery, documented in the commission reports, and dissolve the commissions with thanks:

Installation reports for TE David Frierson, Brad DeVries, and Jason Glover
Particularization report for Redeemer PC, Siloam Springs, AR

140-7.4 The motion was seconded and passed that our attorney in the Carpenter Trust Dispute which was successfully argued before the Arkansas Supreme Court, Josh Sanford, be allowed per his recommendation to enter into an agreement, or a series of agreements, with both Suntrust Bank (Trustee of the Carpenter Trust) and the First Baptist Church of Osceola, AR (Complainant), and a potential buyer of the Carpenter Trust Farmland, with terms as follows:

1. That the attorney for First Baptist Church would solicit an offer on the property (which he indicates he has), and
2. That Suntrust bank would not market the property or engage a realtor at this time, and
3. That a qualifying offer on the farmland would be an Offer and Acceptance (O&A) signed by the Buyer with the Sellers being both FBC and CP. (Even though the land is currently held in trust by Suntrust Bank.) That earnest money from the buyer be set at 10% of the appraised value of \$1.13 million, and
4. That with the qualifying and executed O&A in hand, and a specific closing date, Covenant Presbytery would accept direct distribution of the farmland from Suntrust Bank to First Baptist Church and Covenant Presbytery so that the two parties can carry out the O&A with the pre-determined closing date, at a title and closing company of repute, and
5. That at closing the Sellers would be the First Baptist Church and Covenant Presbytery.

140-7.5 The motion was seconded and passed that Presbytery ratifies the Stated Clerk's referrals and other dispositions of communications received as listed in the Stated Clerk's report.

140-7.6 The motion was seconded and passed to postpone until a definite time (October 3, 2017) consideration that Covenant Presbytery contemplate an amount to be disbursed between Covenant Presbytery and a possible new presbytery made up partially from Arkansas churches currently in our presbytery from the proceeds from the sale of said land currently in the Carpenter Trust. [note – see 140-13.5]

140-8 APPOINTMENT OF RESOLUTION AND THANKS COMMITTEE

The Moderator announced the appointment of the following to the Resolution and Thanks Committee: TE Brad Devries (convener) and RE Barron Caulfield.

140-9 TREASURER'S REPORT

The printed report of the Presbytery Treasurer had been previously distributed. The Treasurer presented the report and it was received as printed. The summary statement is as follows:

**COVENANT PRESBYTERY TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2017 THROUGH APRIL 10, 2017**

General Fund

Beginning balance - January 1, 2017	\$ 29,747.48	
Total receipts	40,789.27	
Total disbursements	(19,245.38)	
Ending balance -April 10 2017		\$ 51,291.37

Designated Funds-Springfield

Beginning balance - January 1, 2017	\$ 13,729.29	
Receipts:		
Interest	2.86	
Disbursements:		
	-	
Ending balance - April 10, 2017		13,732.15

Total General and Designated Funds

Ending balance - April 10, 2017		<u>\$ 65,023.52</u>
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Other Presbytery Fund Balances at December 31, 2016

MNA Church Planting Fund -

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2017	\$ -
Interest Income	\$ -
Expense	\$ -

Ending Balance - April 10, 2017

Designated Jonesboro	\$ -	
Undesignated	-	\$ -

Future Commitments:

\$ -

Disaster Fund-

Beginning balance - January 1, 2017	\$ 8,953.66
2016 Budget transfer	-
Interest Income	1.81
Ending Balance - April 10, 2017	<u>\$ 8,955.47</u>

Asking for 2017 budget is \$15.29 per communing member.

COVENANT PRESBYTERY TREASURER'S REPORT
GENERAL FUND CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS STATEMENT

	January 1 Through		Calendar Year
	April 10, 2017	April 15, 2016	2016
GENERAL FUND - Beginning balance	\$ 29,747.48	\$ 42,658.09	
Receipts:			
Aberdeen, Faith	\$ 1,138.00	\$ 1,237.00	\$ 5,410.00
Carrollton	2,750.00	2,750.00	2,750.00
Charleston, First	445.00	445.00	1,333.00
Clarksdale, First	750.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
Cleveland, Covenant	3,000.00	3,000.00	6,000.00
Columbus, Main Street	1,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00
Conway- Christ	-	925.00	1,850.00
Cordova, Grace Community	-	-	-
Corinth, Trinity	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
Covenant, Hot Springs	-	-	200.00
Dyersburg, First	-	-	1,500.00
Fayetteville, Covenant	375.00	375.00	1,500.00
Fort Smith Covenant	537.50	187.50	813.00
Germantown, Grace Evangelical	1,800.00	1,200.00	4,800.00
Germantown, River Oaks	1,338.00	2,748.00	6,245.00
Greenville, Covenant	-	-	-
Greenwood, Westminster	1,034.64	951.16	2,853.48
Grenada - Grace	-	-	450.00
Hernando Christ	-	1,100.00	1,100.00
Hickory With	-	-	974.00
Hope, Hot Springs	200.00	-	-
Houston	-	-	800.00
Indianola, First	212.53	212.49	849.96
Itta Bena/Morgan City	75.00	-	400.00
Jackson, Grace	-	75.00	300.00
Jackson, Covenant	-	-	1,200.00
Joplin, MO, Christ the King	-	-	-
Little Rock, Covenant	2,000.00	1,000.00	4,000.00
Marks	-	-	1,000.00
Memphis, Independent	15,000.00	-	-
Memphis, Redeemer	-	-	800.00
Munford, New Life	-	-	-
Oakland, TN, Christ Pres	-	-	-
Olive Branch, Christ	1,250.00	1,250.00	2,500.00
Other	-	-	10,025.00
Oxford, Christ Presbyterian	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Oxford, College Hill	-	-	2,465.00
Pontotoc, Maple Drive	-	-	600.00
Ripley, Spout Springs	-	-	-
Rogers, Trinity Grace	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Russellville, Covenant	-	-	270.00
Saitillo, Covenant Life	-	-	-
Sardis	-	-	-
Sherwood, Trinity Fellowship	325.00	200.00	1,100.00
Starkville Grace	-	1,000.00	1,600.00
Troy, Grace	978.56	-	-
Tupelo Lawndale	-	-	4,000.00
Water Valley, First	600.00	600.00	1,200.00
Interest income	10.40	11.45	44.14
Total Budget Receipts	<u>\$ 39,819.63</u>	<u>\$ 28,267.60</u>	<u>\$ 83,932.58</u>
Other receipts	969.64	-	4,926.37
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 40,789.27</u>	<u>\$ 28,267.60</u>	<u>\$ 88,858.95</u>

COVENANT PRESBYTERY TREASURER'S REPORT
GENERAL FUND CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS STATEMENT
(Continued)

	January 1 through		2017
	April 10, 2017	April 15, 2016	BUDGET
Budgeted Disbursements:			
Mission to North America			
Committee Expense	\$ 211.30	\$ -	\$ -
B.A.I.C	833.36	833.36	2,500.00
Disaster Fund	-	-	-
Church Planting	-	-	30,000.00
Reformed University Ministries			
Salaries/Annuities/Insurance	12,000.00	12,000.00	36,000.00
Committee Expense	-	-	200.00
Administrative Committee:			
Stated Clerk Expenses	-	-	1,700.00
Committee Expense (Website)	534.00	534.00	1,200.00
Administrative Salaries	4,233.36	4,233.36	14,700.00
Accounting	933.36	1,166.69	2,800.00
Liability insurance	-	-	1,120.00
GA Floor Clerk	-	-	1,200.00
General Assembly Donation	500.00	-	500.00
Presbytery Worship Service	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Legal Retainer/ Carpenter funds	-	-	-
Christian Education Committee:			
Presbytery WIC Ministry	-	-	-
Committee Expense	-	-	-
Youth Retreats	-	-	4,000.00
Mission to the World:			
Committee Expense	-	-	-
Missionary support	-	-	6,000.00
Church Care Committee Expense	-	-	1,000.00
Credential Committee Expense	-	-	200.00
Candidates Committee Expense	-	-	200.00
Nominating Committee Expense	-	-	200.00
Miscellaneous Committees/ Commissions	-	-	200.00
	<u>\$ 19,245.38</u>	<u>\$ 18,767.41</u>	<u>\$ 103,720.00</u>
GENERAL FUND - Ending Balance	<u>\$ 51,291.37</u>	<u>\$ 52,158.28</u>	

140-10 COMMISSION REPORTS

There were none.

140-11 TRUSTEES REPORT

There was none.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

140-12 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

140-12.1 TE Sam McDonald presented the report of the Administration Committee. TE McDonald prayed for this portion of the meeting. Copies of the printed report had been distributed prior to the meeting of the presbytery.

140-12.2 The recommendation was approved that the proposed change to the Standing Rules of Covenant Presbytery (CP-SR 4.2.s) to clear up a current conflict regarding notification by the Stated Clerk to churches about review of Sessional records and the current practice of the Church Care Committee be given a first reading:

Current reading -

In consultation with the Church Care Committee, he shall, prior to each of the three Stated Meetings of Presbytery, include in the docket a list of the churches whose Sessional Records are scheduled for examination. Two months prior to each Stated Meeting, he is to remind each church Session whose records are due for examination that they need to mail a copy of their unexamined records to the Chairman of the Church Care Committee no later than six weeks prior to the upcoming Stated Meeting.

Proposed Change –

In ~~consultation~~ **association** with the Church Care Committee, he shall, **by October 15th**, ~~prior to each of the three Stated Meetings of Presbytery, include in the docket a list of the churches whose Sessional Records are scheduled for examination. Two months prior to each Stated Meeting, he is to remind each church Session whose~~ **that** records are due for examination **and** that they need to mail a copy of their unexamined records to the Chairman of the Church Care Committee ~~no later than six weeks prior to the upcoming Stated Meeting~~ **by December 15th**.

So that the new rule would read:

In association with the Church Care Committee, he shall, by October 15th, remind each church Session that records are due for examination and that they need to mail a copy of their unexamined records to the Chairman of the Church Care Committee by December 15th.

140-12.3 The recommendation was approved to accept the invitation of Covenant PC, Little Rock, AR, to host the October 3rd meeting of Presbytery. The Stated Clerk then notified Presbytery that we currently have no offers to host the meetings of Covenant beyond October 2017.

140-13 MNA COMMITTEE

- 140-13.1 The current moderator and vice-moderator recused themselves from the MNA report to avoid any conflict of interest and to reserve their right to speak to issues that would be discussed. In accordance with the standing rules of Covenant Presbytery (CP-SR. 4.1.c and RRONR §43, p. 394, line 26 ff.) RE Shaun Sipe, the most recent moderator present, assumed the chair and moderated this portion of the meeting.
- 140-13.2 TE Kevin Hale presented the report of the MNA Committee. The committee report had been distributed prior to the meeting. TE Hale prayed for this portion of the meeting.
- 140-13.2 The recommendation was approved to call TE Seth Still as church planter to Cleveland, MS.
- 140-13.3 The recommendation was approved that Covenant Presbytery call TE Seth Still with limited powers of evangelist, in accord with BCO 8-6, “to preach the Word, to administer the Sacraments, to receive and dismiss members of mission churches, and to train potential officers,” and recommend the appointment of the following commission in accordance with BCO 15-1, 15-2): TE Ashley Dusenbery (Covenant, Cleveland, MS) and TE Samuel Husband (Independent, Memphis, TN), and RE Trey O’Brien (Westminster, Greenwood, Miss.) with one RE to be named by the MNA committee. Upon Ordination, TE Mark Webb (First Presbyterian, Clarksdale, MS) would also be added to the commission.
- 140-13.4 The motion was seconded and passed to extend the order of the day (presentation by Mrs. SusanTyner) for 30 minutes (until 12:20pm).
- 140-13.5 The MNA chairman presented a motion regarding the formation of a new presbytery.
- 140-13.6 A substitute motion was offered and seconded that Covenant Presbytery answer the motion of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas, to form an Arkansas Presbytery, in the affirmative. After discussion, the motion failed.
- 140-13.7 The recommendation of the MNA Committee was approved that Covenant Presbytery answer the motion of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas, to form an Arkansas Presbytery, in the negative.
- 140-13.8 The MNA chairman presented a motion regarding the formation of a new presbytery that read Covenant Presbytery answer the overture of North Texas Presbytery to form a new presbytery, in the affirmative, as amended by the MNA Committee and to jointly overture General Assembly. The amended wording reads:
- “Therefore, be it resolved, that Covenant Presbytery release the following churches, Christ Community Church (Fayetteville), Covenant Presbyterian Church (Fayetteville), Christ the King Presbyterian Church (Joplin), Redeemer Presbyterian (Siloam Springs), and Trinity Grace Church (Rogers), along with RUF University of Arkansas, to accept the invitation from North Texas Presbytery’s MNA committee to form a new Presbytery (to be named later) to include all counties of the state of Oklahoma, as well as the following counties in Arkansas: Benton, Carroll, Washington, Madison, and Boone, as well as the following counties in Missouri: Jasper, McDonald, Newton, Dade, Polk, Dallas, Laclede, Texas,

Wright, Webster, Greene, Lawrence, Christian, Douglas, Howell, Ozark, Taney, Stone, Barry. This Presbytery would begin with 18 churches, approximately 33 Teaching Elders, approximately 2,700 communicant members, and 4 RUF ministries in its oversight.”

140-13.9 A substitute motion was offered to amend the proposed language by striking “Washington” in the list of Arkansas counties to be included. After discussion, the substitute failed.

140-13.10 The MNA recommendation was approved that Covenant Presbytery answer the overture of North Texas Presbytery to form a new presbytery, in the affirmative, as amended by the MNA Committee and to jointly overture General Assembly. The approved amended wording reads:

“Therefore, be it resolved, that Covenant Presbytery release the following churches, Christ Community Church (Fayetteville), Covenant Presbyterian Church (Fayetteville), Christ the King Presbyterian Church (Joplin), Redeemer Presbyterian (Siloam Springs), and Trinity Grace Church (Rogers), along with RUF University of Arkansas, to accept the invitation from North Texas Presbytery’s MNA committee to form a new Presbytery (to be named later) to include all counties of the state of Oklahoma, as well as the following counties in Arkansas: Benton, Carroll, Washington, Madison, and Boone, as well as the following counties in Missouri: Jasper, McDonald, Newton, Dade, Polk, Dallas, Laclede, Texas, Wright, Webster, Greene, Lawrence, Christian, Douglas, Howell, Ozark, Taney, Stone, Barry. This Presbytery would begin with 18 churches, approximately 33 Teaching Elders, approximately 2,700 communicant members, and 4 RUF ministries in its oversight.”

[Note – In accordance with RRONR it is duly noted that substitute motions which fail are not normally included in the minutes of the proceedings. However, due to the sensitive nature of this matter and how Presbytery chose to deal with the matters before the court, the motions made were included in this section to give an accurate recounting of the debate and actions taken.]

140-13.11 The motion was seconded and passed that the money from the dissolved Springfield, MO mission work be sent to the new presbytery if formed by consent of the General Assembly with our deepest hopes for a future work in Springfield, MO or similar location.

140-13.12 MSP to move to the order of the day.

140-14 ORDER OF THE DAY – PRESENTATIONS - DINNER RECESS AND TEN MINUTE SEASON OF PRAYER

140-14.1 The current moderator, TE Tim Reed, resumed the chair.

140-14.2 TE Curt Presley introduced Susan Tyner, regional advisor from GA women’s ministry, who then offered her assistance to the women’s ministries of our churches.

140-14.3 TE Steve Hill gave a brief report on his work with Peru Mission.

140-14.2 The motion was seconded and passed to recess for lunch. TE Clint Wilcke gave thanks for the upcoming meal. At 1:50 P.M., the Moderator called the presbytery to order and presided over a season of prayer for Presbytery needs. At 2:00 P.M., the Moderator closed this time of prayer.

140-15 CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

140-15.1 TE Nate Smith presented the report of the Credentials Committee. The committee report had been distributed prior to the meeting. TE Smith prayed for this portion of the meeting and asked candidate Tyler Kenyon to deliver his sermon before Presbytery.

140-15.2 TE Smith introduced TE Elliot Everitt and TE Ro Taylor to Presbytery. These men were seeking transfer of ordination from within the PCA.

140-15.2.1 TE Everitt and TE Taylor each had their calls read to Presbytery. The recommendation was approved that each call and the specific arrangements (BCO 20-1) be found in order and placed in their hands at the proper time.

140-15.2.2 The recommendation was approved that Covenant Presbytery proceed to examine each man as to his Christian Experience, Call, and Views in Theology, Sacraments, and Church Government. TE Smith led the exam with further questions being asked from the floor. Each area of their exams was sustained.

140-15.2.3 TE Smith stated that each man concurs with Covenant Presbytery's nine declarations regarding the New Perspective and Federal Vision Controversy.

140-15.2.4 TE Everitt stated no exceptions to our standards in accordance with RAO 16.3.5.a.

140-15.2.5 In accordance with RAO 16.3.5, TE Taylor submitted two written exceptions to our standards:

“The only differences I would have with the WCF is with regards to what is lawful to do on the Sabbath, and images of Jesus forbidden in the 2nd commandment (children’s books, etc.).

140-15.2.6 The recommendation was approved that TE Taylor’s exception regarding WCF 21-8 be deemed as a semantic difference in accordance with RAO 16.3.5.b and that his exception regarding WLC 109 be deemed as more than semantic but not striking at the vitals of religion in accordance with RAO 16.3.5.c.

140-15.2.7 The motion was seconded and passed that each man’s views examination as a whole be sustained.

140-15.2.8 The motion was seconded and passed to receive TE Everitt into Covenant Presbytery from Central Georgia Presbytery and install him as RUF Campus Minister at Mississippi State University. His call was placed in his hands and TE Everitt stated his desire to accept the call and the terms within.

140-15.2.10 The motion was seconded and passed to receive TE Taylor into Covenant Presbytery from Savannah River Presbytery and install him as RUF Campus Minister of Delta State University. His call was placed in his hands and TE Taylor stated his desire to accept the call and the terms within.

140-15.2.11 The Moderator established the time and date of TE Everitt’s installation and appointed the following commission to install him as RUF Campus Minister at Mississippi State University:

April 20, 2017 at 10:30am

REs – Session of Grace PCA in Starkville, MS

TEs – Bill Heard (convener), Brian Sorgenfrei, and Clint Wilcke

140-15.2.12 The Moderator established the time and date of TE Taylor's installation and appointed the following commission to install him as RUF Campus Minister at Delta State University:

August 27, 2017 at 6:00pm

REs – David Arant, Clint Wood, and David Robinson

TEs – Tim Starnes (convener), Seth Still, and Richard Owens

140-15.2.13 The motion was seconded and passed for TE Everitt and TE Taylor to sign the Ministerial Obligation in the book of records, which they did. TE Brad Robson prayed for these men.

140-15.2.14 The motion was seconded and passed to extend to the order of the day (adjournment) until such time as business is concluded or a motion to adjourn is sustained.

140-15.3 TE Smith introduced Tyler Kenyon to Presbytery. Mr. Kenyon is seeking ordination in Covenant Presbytery.

140-15.3.1 The motion was seconded and passed that Tyler Kenyon's sermon be approved as having fulfilled the preaching requirement of BCO 21-4.

140-15.3.3 TE Tenant read Mr. Kenyon's call to presbytery. The motion was seconded and passed that Mr. Kenyon's call with its specific arrangements (BCO 20-1) be found in order and that it be placed in his hands at the proper time.

140-15.3.4 The motion was seconded and passed that Mr. Kenyon's theological paper "How Does Our Understanding of Christ's Two Natures Inform the Theology Advocated in the Westminster Confession of Faith?" and exegetical paper on the use of "*baptizo*" in Romans 6 be approved as meeting the BCO requirements for ordination.

140-15.3.4 The motion was seconded and passed that Mr. Kenyon's college degree from John Brown University and his Master of Divinity degree from Covenant Theological Seminary be accepted, pending graduation on May 19, 2017, in lieu of oral exam in original languages, and approved as meeting the BCO requirements for ordination.

140-15.3.5 The motion was seconded and passed that Mr. Kenyon's completed internship in Covenant Presbytery be approved as having fulfilled the requirements of BCO 21-4.

140-15.3.6 TE Tenant stated that the committee was satisfied with Mr. Kenyon's exam in the areas of sacraments, church history, and PCA history. Mr. Kenyon was previously licensed and his other areas of examination were already approved. The motion was seconded and passed that Mr. Kenyon be orally examined before Presbytery in sacraments, church history, and PCA history. Each area of examination was sustained.

140-15.3.7 The motion was seconded and passed that Mr. Kenyon's examination as a whole be sustained.

140-15.3.8 TE Smith stated that Mr. Kenyon concurs with Covenant Presbytery's nine declarations regarding the New Perspective and Federal Vision Controversy.

140-15.3.9 In accordance with RAO 16.3.5, Mr. Kenyon communicated two written exceptions to our standards:

WCF §21.8 (see also WLC Q117, 119; WSC Q61, 62): I affirm with Scripture and the WCF and believe that the entire Lord's Day (Rev. 1:10) is to be kept holy and unto the Lord, resting and we should "not do any work" (Ex. 20:10; WCF §20.8). In Ex. 20, the call to keep the Sabbath is rooted in the creational order, and, therefore, still relevant today. This, I believe, is the call to orient our life after God (cf. v. 11) and to mediate God throughout the world (an overarching theme as Israel entered into the promised-land).

But I do believe that WCF 21.8 goes beyond this call for rest and holiness when it says we should not have “thoughts about their worldly employments and recreations...”. I believe the context in which Jesus says that the Sabbath was made for man (Mk. 2:27) is referencing Ex. 20. In Deut. 5, the Sabbath’s is undergirded in God’s redemptive-historical work (Deut. 5:15; cf. Heb. 4), and therefore a shadow of the things to come (Col. 2:17) as we enjoy redemption in the Son, forever. Sabbath rest is rooted in the creation (Ex. 20) and God’s redemptive work in history (Deut. 5). Both Ex. 20 and Deut. 5 prescribe observance of a Sabbath, and the prescription is upon worship and rest. Therefore, when the WCF, WLC, and WSC’s conclude that Sabbath rest prohibits “thoughts about their worldly employments and recreations,” I disagree with their conclusion and I believe it goes beyond Scripture. I believe Is. 58:13, twøcSo, with BDB (§2656), that it should be translated “business,” and that recreation can be observed while at rest. I also believe our worldly employments may be thought about by offering our tithes from our works as an act of worship and it not be work which is prohibited. WLC 109: I affirm that Scripture commands that we should not make an image or idol for the purpose of receiving our worship. I disagree with WLC’s conclusion in answer 109 which prohibits “...making any representation of God, of all or of any of the three persons...outwardly in any kind of image...”. I believe this goes beyond the teaching of Scripture. Based on the incarnation of the Son of God who dwelt among us (John 1:14) and because Christ “is the image of the invisible God” (Col. 1:15), I believe we can produce physical and mental images of His likeness. However, these images may not for used for or in worship. I also believe the Scriptures give us an image “inwardly in our mind” (WLC 109) when Scripture says “the Spirit of God descending like a dove...” (Mt. 3:16; cf. Mk. 1:10; Lk. 3:22; Jn. 1:32) which Calvin says is a “visible sign.”¹ However, it is maintained that images or carvings should not be used in worship or be worshiped, as prohibited in Ex. 20:5. I also hold that making an image or representation of the Triune God for worship is forbidden.

- 140-15.3.10 The recommendation was approved that Mr. Kenyon’s exceptions are both more than semantic but not striking at the vitals of religion in accordance with RAO 16.3.5.c.
- 140-15.3.11 The motion was seconded and passed to receive Mr. Kenyon into Covenant Presbytery. The call was placed in Mr. Kenyon’s hands, and he stated his desire to accept the call.
- 140-15.3.12 The Moderator established the time and date of Mr. Kenyon’s ordination and appointed the following commission to ordain and install him as Assistant Pastor of Christ PCA in Fayette County, TN:
 June 4th, 2017 at 10:30am at Christ PCA in Fayette County, TN
 TEs: John Sartelle (Convener), Chris Miller, and Ben Winkler
 REs: Steve Lykins, Bill Rhea, and Mike Atkinson
- 140-15.3.13 The motion was seconded and passed for Mr. Kenyon to sign the Ministerial Obligation in the book of records, which he did. RE Bill Davis then prayed for Mr. Kenyon.

140-16 RUF COMMITTEE

There was no report.

140-17 CANDIDATES COMMITTEE

- 140-17.1 TE Josh Keel presented the report from the Candidates committee. The written report was distributed at the meeting. TE Keel prayed for this portion of the meeting.
- 140-17.2 The motion was seconded and passed to approve Gage Jordon to come under the care of Covenant Presbytery and begin his internship at Christ Church (Conway, AR) with TE Kevin Hale serving as his mentor. The Moderator asked the candidates questions (BCO 18-3) and TE Hale charged and prayed for Mr. Jordon. The Moderator gave the charge of internship in accordance with BCO 19-10.
- 140-17.3 The recommendation was approved that Scott Byrd's internship completed (BCO 19).
- 140-17.4 The recommendation was approved that Aaron Raines begin his internship under the direction of TE Chris Miller at Trinity Grace (Rogers, AR).
- 140-17.5 TE Keel invited Daniel Stanphill to give a brief report regarding his ongoing internship. TE Wilcke prayed for Mr. Stanphill.
- 140-17.6 The Moderator appointed TE Ashley Dusenbury to convene the Candidates Committee until a new chairman is named and thanked TE Keel for his service.

140-18 CHURCH CARE COMMITTEE

- 140-18.1 TE Clint Wilcke presented the report of the Church Care Committee. The written report was distributed at the meeting. TE Wilcke prayed for this portion of the meeting.
- 140-18.2 The recommendation was approved that TE Stephen Atkinson be allowed to labor out of bounds with the ministry of the Christian Witness to Israel. Presbytery approved the call with its specific arrangements (BCO 20-1), placed it in his hands, and TE Atkinson expressed his desire to accept the call.
- 140-18.3 The recommendation was approved that TE Doug Barcroft, TE Ed Eubanks, RE Jim Gibson, RE Shaun Sipe, TE Nathan Tircuit, TE Clint Wilcke be named as the particular members of the provisional Session of Grace Presbyterian in Jackson, TN in accordance with BCO 15-1.
- 140-18.4 The recommendation was approved that presbytery receive the actions of the committee's work as a commission in the dismissal of TE Bo Collins to Southwest Presbytery.
- 140-18.5 The motion was seconded and passed that TE Justin Jones pastoral relationship with Independent Presbyterian Church be dissolved, and that his call, and the specific arrangements (BCO 20-1), to Grace Community Church in Cordova, TN be approved, and that the following commission to install TE Jones as Assistant Pastor be named:

June 11th; 10:30am at Christ Community in Cordova
TEs - Parker Tennet, Samuel Husband, and Nathan Tircuit
REs - Steve Phipps, Daniel Weaver, and Frank Riley

140-18.6 The motion was seconded and passed that TE Joshua Keel be dismissed to Savannah River Presbytery.

140-19 MTW COMMITTEE

TE Steve Jamison gave a brief report on his work. Melvin Monikavasigam prayed for Steve and One Door Ministry.

140-20 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

140-20.1 The motion was seconded and passed that TE Tim Reed be named to serve on the GA RUM-CoC and RE Bob Barber be named to serve on the GA Admin-CoC.

140-21 RESOLUTION AND THANKS COMMITTEE

140-21.1

WHEREAS, Christ Covenant Church has graciously volunteered to host the 140th Stated Meeting of Covenant Presbytery; AND

WHEREAS, they have welcomed and encouraged the unity and proliferation of the church within the Presbytery and beyond; AND

WHEREAS we have been nourished in the body through the breakfast, snacks, and drinks provided for the duration of our time together; AND

WHEREAS we have been encouraged by the generosity and service of those members of Christ Covenant who have faithfully labored behind the scenes and for those who skillfully facilitated our worship; AND

WHEREAS we have been encouraged and challenged in our labors through the preaching of the Word by TE Billy Spink from Paul's letter to the Phillippians, to see every life circumstance, past, present, and future through the lens of God's amazing grace to us in Christ;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Covenant Presbytery give thanks to the Lord for His grace shown to us through Christ Covenant Church; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we extend our thanks to TE Clint Wilcke, as well as the Session and congregation of Christ Covenant Church; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we pray the Lord's grace and favor be upon this faithful representation of Christ's body and their continued labor for the kingdom.

Respectfully Submitted,

TE Brad Devries and RE Barron Caulfield

140-22 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

140-22.1 The motion was seconded and passed that Covenant Presbytery send the following Overture to North Texas Presbytery:

Overture from Covenant Presbytery

Whereas on the second day of May 2017, Covenant Presbytery met for its 140th Stated meeting; and

Whereas Covenant Presbytery had received an overture from North Texas Presbytery concerning the formation of a new presbytery and inviting churches within the bouds of Covenant Presbytery to be a part; and

Whereas after study and consideration by our presbytery's MNA Committee in consultation with churches that would be a part of this new presbytery; and

Whereas after consideration Covenant Presbytery voted to recommend an amendment to the proposed overture of North Texas and if they are in agreement with the amendment to thereby overture General Assembly for the formation of a new presbytery;

Therefore be it resolved that Covenant Presbytery propose an amendment to North Texas that reads:

“Therefore, be it resolved that Covenant Presbytery release the following churches, Christ Community Church (Fayetteville), Covenant Presbyterian Church (Fayetteville), Christ the King Presbyterian Church (Joplin), Redeemer Presbyterian (Siloam Springs), and Trinity Grace Church (Rogers), along with RUF at the University of Arkansas, to accept the invitation from North Texas Presbytery's MNA committee to form a new presbytery (to be named later) to include all counties of the state of Oklahoma, as well as the following counties in Arkansas: Benton, Carroll, Washington, Madison, and Boone, as well as the following counties in Missouri: Jasper, McDonald, Newton, Dade, Polk, Dallas, Laclede, Texas, Wright, Webster, Greene, Lawrence, Christian, Douglas, Howell, Ozark, Taney, Stone, and Barry.”

Note – This new presbytery would begin with 18 churches, approximately 33 Teaching Elders, approximately 2,700 communicant members, and 4 RUF ministries in its oversight.

Therefore be it further resolved that if this amendment is affirmed by North Texas that we overture General Assembly in concurrence with a suggested date for formation by North Texas or by General Assembly in line with MNA guidelines and that we would consider a suggested date to be germane and concur.

140-23 NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

140-24 TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The Moderator called attention to the time and place which Presbytery had set for the next Stated Meeting. Covenant Presbytery is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, October 3, 2017, at Covenant PC in Little Rock, AR.

140-25 CONCLUDING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

The motion was seconded and adopted that the meeting be adjourned. TE Curt Presley adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Browning – Stated Clerk